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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities
Forty-ninth session
Agenda item 11

REVIEW OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN FIELDS WITH WHICH THE SUB-COMMISSION HAS BEEN OR MAY BE CONCERNED

Mr. Bossuyt, Mr. Boutkevitch, Mrs. Daes, Mr. Eide, Mr. El-Hajjé, Mrs. Forero Ucros, Mr. Guissé, Mrs. Gwanmesia, Mr. Joinet, Mr. Maxim, Ms. Palley, Ms. Warzazi and Mr. Weissbrodt: draft resolution

1997/... Respect for humanitarian and human rights law provisions in United Nations peacekeeping operations

The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities,

Affirming the need to respect the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and the relevant provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the two Additional Protocols thereto,

Recalling that according to common article 1 of the Geneva Conventions the High Contracting Parties undertake not only to respect but also to ensure respect of the obligations under the Conventions,

Convinced that States parties to the Geneva Conventions and the international human rights conventions are in no way relieved of their humanitarian and human rights obligations when they put military contingents at the disposal of the United Nations,

Gravely concerned, at incidents in the past in which such military contingents remained inactive while witnessing grave violations of provisions of humanitarian law, including acts of genocide,

Concerned also by continued allegations of violations of human rights by United Nations contingents engaged in peacekeeping operations,

1. Emphasizes that the conduct of military contingents put at the disposal of the United Nations should always be in conformity with the provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the international human rights instruments;

2. Recommends that the rules of engagement applicable to United Nations peacekeeping operations should contain explicit references to these obligations;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to disseminate the Guidelines for United Nations Forces Regarding Respect for International Humanitarian Law of 1996 drafted by the United Nations in consultation with the International Committee of the Red Cross.